Approved For Release 2004/10/27 : CIA-RDP58-00597A000100200049-8

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

COPY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

June 14, 1956

The Honorable L. H. Fountain
Chairman, Intergovernmental Relations
Subcommittee
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I refer to your letter of 6 June 1956, on the subject of cooperation by Executive agencies in a project of your subcommittee having to do with the transshipment of surplus fats and oils to Soviet Bloc destinations.

I regret that you have gained the impression that the Central Intelligence Agency has failed to cooperate fully with the staff of your subcommittee in obtaining relevant information on the subject of your investigation. I have looked into this matter thoroughly, and have concluded that there has been a misunderstanding on the part of your staff, and that this Agency has, in fact, been cooperating to the fullest possible extent with them in their efforts to obtain all the relevant facts on the subject.

Representatives of this Agency have been in frequent contact with the staff of your subcommittee since we first received a request for assistance from them last February, and have furnished them with certain information. These contacts have continued, and we are now attempting to obtain information which the staff has recently requested regarding cargoes and movements of the Russian tanker, Tuapse, which was apprehended two years ago off Formosa.

I believe that the episode to which your letter refers, involving an alleged failure by this Agency to inform the subcommittee staff of certain information in its possession, relates to knowledge which the staff obtained, through its contacts with other government agencies, that the Central Intelligence Agency received copies of dispatches and

Approved For Release 2004/10/27 : CIA-RDP58-00597A000100200049-8

Approved For Release 2004/10/27 : CIA-RDP58-00597A000100200049-8

other communications from United States consular offices abroad which touched upon the subject matter of the subcommittee investigation. When apprised of this by Mr. Naughton of the subcommittee staff, Mr. Norman Paul, the Legislative Counsel of this Agency, checked into the matter and found that the documents evidently referred to were information copies of classified communications which were originated by, and were the action responsibility of other agencies of the government, the distribution of which was controlled by those agencies. Any decision as to the release of such communications must rest with the responsible agencies, and must take into account not only the classification problem but the problem of the intended use of the information received. In view of these considerations, and in view of the fact that he had been informed previously by Mr. Naughton that the subcommittee staff was in direct contact with the other agencies involved, Mr. Paul informed Mr. Naughton that it was neither the privilege nor the responsibility of this Agency to make such communications available to persons outside of the Agency. In this respect, Mr. Paul was adhering to a well established rule within the government, and was not motivated by any desire to withhold from the subcommittee any relevant information in the possession of this Agency.

You may have my assurance that this Agency will continue to cooperate with your subcommittee in every way possible.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

Allen W. Dulles
Director

Approved For Release 2004/10/27 : CIA-RDP58-00597A000100200049-8